

Devoted to
the interests
of the
A. F. of L.
and the
Working Man

CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

State-wide Labor Weekly, Presenting Labor News and Views Without Fear and Without Favor

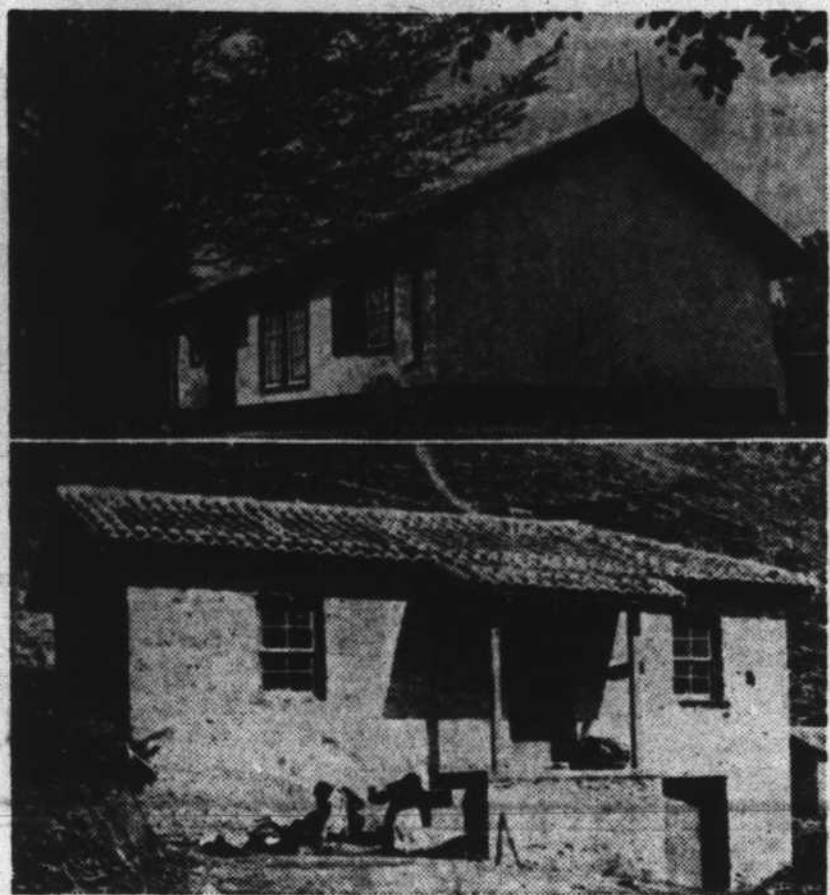
Dedicated
to the
Continued
Industrial
Growth of
North Carolina

VOL. XIX; NO. 49

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1950

Subscription Price \$2.00 Year

Two Types of European Housing



Washington—The Economic Cooperation Administration released these photographs showing how European workers are meeting the housing crisis in their countries. In Holland (top) an American, ECA-financed concrete blocking machine helps speed production of these bungalows, built of Bouvite-bricks costing approximately \$2,000. When built in series the price is expected to go down another 10 per cent. In Greece (bottom) refugees are finding shelter in two-room stone dwellings which the Greek government is building to take care of 30,000 homeless refugees after the war.

"Hot War" On Reds Declared By Seamen

Washington.—AFL seamen's unions joined with CIO and independent organizations in declaring "hot war" on European Communists trying to stem the flow of Atlantic Pact arms to the western democracies.

They sharply criticized Communists and their "trade union stooges" overseas who, they said were "using violence" and trying to create chaos to nullify the effect of the Marshall Plan and the arms-aid program.

The union presidents, representing 170,000 seamen, met here and drew up a pact in defense of the maritime hiring hall system.

They supported a plea of Omer Becu, Belgian secretary general of the International Transportation Workers Federation, for action by American workers to combat "propaganda" by Communist-dominated European transport unions.

Mr. Becu said that Communist-led unions on the European continent had spread the false word that American seamen opposed the Marshall Plan and the Atlantic Treaty.

"Through this resolution," he said, "we are now declaring hot war on the Communists through all maritime unions."

UN SETS UP UNIT

Lake Success, N. Y.—The social committee of the United Nations Economic and Social Council gave its approval to the 9-member fact-finding commission that will seek to safeguard labor's right to organize and form unions. Establishment of the panel has been undertaken by the International Labor Organization.

Are you listening to Frank Edwards?

Generals Of Organizing Drive



Washington.—Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organizing, and AFL President William Green discuss strategy for winning 1,000,000 new members in 1950 in honor of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL. Mr. Green told organizers' conference that Mr. O'Reilly is "doing a swell job."

Humphrey Wants Byrd Committee Killed As Waster Of Federal Funds

Washington.—Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey is carrying his fight to the people to abolish the Congressional Joint Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Expenditures headed by Dixiecrat Sen. Harry Byrd.

Byrd, who parades as a proponent of economy in federal government, doesn't practice what he preaches when he insists that this committee be kept alive.

Senator Humphrey told the Senate that the Byrd committee violates the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 which gave the functions of the Byrd committee to the standing House and Senate Committees on Expenditures in the Executive Departments.

"In spite of this," Senator Humphrey said, "the Congress has continued to appropriate funds to sustain the Byrd committee. These funds have been used to maintain a staff which has been issuing press releases based on statistical information which it has received from the government agencies.

"In performing this function, it is not only duplicating the work of the standing Committees on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, but also, insofar as personnel statistics are concerned, is duplicating the work of the Civil Service Commission and the Bureau of the Budget.

"Those who rally to the defense of the Byrd committee do so apparently out of their desire to see economy in government. I share that desire. Economy in government is in part obtained by the elimination of duplicating services

Bakery Chief



Chicago.—William F. Schnitzer is the new president of the AFL Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union. He succeeded AFL Vice-President Herman Winter, who retired as head of the bakery workers.

and the reduction of duplicating staffs. Surely there is no economy in maintaining two separate sets of congressional committees or administrative agencies to do the same work.

"It is in this spirit, therefore, that I oppose the existence of the Byrd committee. It is a violation of the intent and purpose of the Legislative Reorganization Act and is a brazen example of the continuance of overlapping functions and duplication of services in a government agency."

Alex Rose Picked To Head Hatters

New York.—Alex Rose, secretary and treasurer of the New York Joint Board of the AFL United Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union, was unanimously selected by the executive board as the union's new international president.

His selection, to be ratified by the annual convention next May 1, was tantamount to election as opponents withdrew to endorse Mr. Rose.

Action by the board of the union, popularly known as the Hatters Union, one of the oldest in the American labor movement, came after a 2-day session at the Hotel New Yorker. The board represents some 50,000 employees in 3 fields, women's millinery, caps and hats.

Mr. Rose, a vice president of the international for 25 years, started in life as a machine operator in the millinery branch of the union. He is one of the leaders of the Liberal party with the title of vice chairman. Mr. Rose is a close friend of United States Senator Herbert H. Lehman and is one of the comparatively few labor-political leaders invited to the White House during both the late President Roosevelt's term and President Truman's administration.

He was one of the founders of the American Labor party, originally designed to form a labor bloc but from which Mr. Rose withdrew when the ALP went too far to the left. Mr. Rose is also a member of the national administrative committee of the AFL's political arm, Labor's League for Political Education.

Selected with Mr. Rose was Marx Lewis, general secretary of the joint board. They will replace Max Zaritsky and Michael Green, respectively international president and secretary, both of whom reach the union's mandatory retirement age of 65 this year.

Five vice presidents of the international were candidates with Mr. Rose. They were Nathaniel Spector, manager of the joint board; Abe Mendelowitz, co-manager; Samuel Hershkowitz, manager of the Cap Makers Union; I. H. Goldberg, a vice president of the joint board, all of New York, and John Beechle, head of the local at Danbury, Conn. All withdrew as nominees when Mr. Rose held the majority and all gave seconding speeches for Mr. Rose to make the choice unanimous.

Union Show Plans Own Post Office

Philadelphia.—Installation of a complete working post office in which thousands will be able to see how a piece of mail gets to its destination without going astray has been authorized for the huge AFL-Union Industries Show to be held in Convention Hall and Commercial Museum May 5-13.

The post office, authorized by Postmaster Raymond A. Thomas, will give visitors to the exhibition a chance to see what happens to a can Federation of Labor. All letter from the time it is dropped in the mail box until it is given to the carrier for delivery.

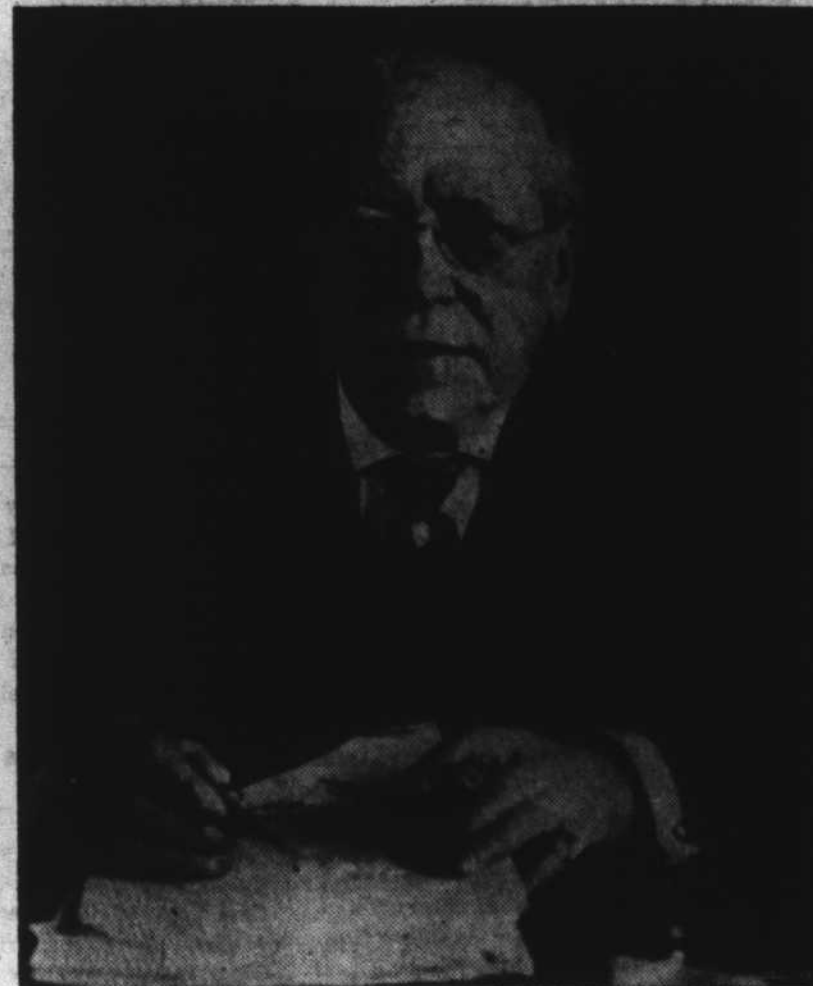
For those interested in philately there will be on sale the Samuel Gompers commemorative stamp, honoring the founder of the American Federation of Labor, which will be hand stamped with a special cachet commemorating the "1950 Union Industries Show."

The show, which will be under the direction of Matthew Woll, of the AFL Union Label Department, will include hundreds of exhibits special features and demonstrations, and will be instituted by unions, firms and associations with AFL contracts.

Western Union's Plea Turned Down
Washington.—A recommendation that Western Union Telegraph Company be denied permission to hire foot and bicycle messengers at 65 cents an hour instead of the new 75-cent minimum wage provided by the Fair Labor Standards Act has been filed with the administrator of the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division.

The recommendation is an acceptance of the AFL position given in testimony presented at public hearings.

Gompers Enjoyed A Good Cigar



Washington.—Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor, is shown in an unusually good human interest pose enjoying a good cigar while working at his desk late in his career. Mr. Gompers was a member of the AFL Cigar-makers International Union. He was born Jan. 27, 1850, in London and died Dec. 13, 1924, at El Paso, Tex. The AFL is marking the centennial of his birth this year with a year-long observance.

40,000,000 Non-Union Workers, Says Meany

California State Federation Passes 1,000,000 Members

San Francisco.—The California Federation of Labor has joined the select group of state federations with more than 1,000,000 members!

The federation's Weekly News Letter says the Golden State organization is "among the largest state bodies in the American Federation of Labor."

One of the accomplishments which put it there was the recent election in which the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers won bargaining rights for 12,500 employees of the giant Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

O. G. Harbak, vice president of IBEW ninth district, and Merritt Snyder, international representative, led the intensive campaign which resulted in the AFL union rolling up an approximate 3 to 1 majority over the CIO utility workers.

The election was the largest ever conducted by the National Labor Relations Board in California. It covered 46 counties of the state.

Prior to the election the IBEW held bargaining rights for more than 7,500 PG&E workers and the CIO represented some 5,000 workers in the San Francisco Bay area. The election was called to designate one union for the entire system and gave terrific impetus to the swing of CIO unions to the AFL.

Mr. Snyder, IBEW campaign director, declared the AFL success represented a "team victory." The campaign actually had its beginning late in 1948 when CIO rank and file members, seeking local autonomy, voted to set up their own local under the IBEW. A charter was issued to the group at its own request through the offices of Mr. Harbak.

Washington.—The nation has 40,000,000 unorganized workers who should be in unions.

They are losing \$2 to \$3 a day in wages by not being in an AFL union.

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany gave these estimates on the size of the union organizing job to be done in this country and the cost of nonunion membership to the unorganized workers.

"We don't have the help of the columnists or the newspapers," Mr. Meany told the AFL organizers' conference. "They're all talking about initiation fees and what it costs to belong to a union."

"You don't see anything in the papers about what it costs to stay out of the union. It costs \$2 to \$3 a day, the difference in wages paid to nonunion and union members."

"Organized labor," Mr. Meany said, "is the greatest force in making this nation the wealthiest in the world. And the real wealth of the nation is not in its buildings, or highways—not in the material things—but is measured by the living standards of its workers."

He said the principal message of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL, was:

"Organize. Organize. Organize." "This is still the important activity," Mr. Meany said.

He said that the success of organized labor's political activity this year and in the years to come will depend to a large extent on what union organizing is done.

"A great part of the success or failure of organized labor in the future is going to be decided on Capitol Hill and in the state legislatures," Mr. Meany said. "We have the potential political power to defend ourselves. We must get the votes. The best guarantee that these votes will be cast on election day is to get the workers into unions."

Leaders In Two Organizing Fields



Washington.—The AFL drive for 1,000,000 new members in 1950 in honor of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president, counts heavily for success among the growing army of industrial workers in the South and the preponderantly unorganized office workers. Leading AFL forces in these fields are J. L. Rhodes (left), Atlanta, southern organizing director in states from Virginia to Texas; Paul R. Hutchings (center), president, and Vice President L. G. Nygren, Minneapolis, of the Office Employees International Union.

ATTEND THE 5TH AFL UNION INDUSTRIES SHOW

KEEP IT RINGING!

AFL UNION INDUSTRIES SHOW
MAY 6-13
DAILY-NOON TIL 11 P. M.
OPEN SUNDAY
ADMISSION FREE
CONVENTION HALL
PHILADELPHIA

THE WORLD'S GREATEST LABOR MANAGEMENT SHOW

You'll Get A Big Kick Out Of It!

It is the only one of its kind and is scheduled May 6-13 at Convention Hall in Philadelphia. We want to make it the biggest and best ever held. In order that it will be the sensational success that other one has been, we appeal to all national and international unions of the American Federation of Labor to participate in this unique labor-management exhibition.

Good relations—co-operation between labor and management—is one of the worthy goals of our Union Industries Shows. Public good will of American consumers is another objective. We anticipate that half a million people will see this spectacular AFL-union event. Admission is free and valuable prizes will be given away.

Over one and a half running miles of brilliant displays of hi-quality, union-made products and exciting demonstrations of efficient union services—marvels of union worker's techniques—will be seen in the huge auditoriums of famous Convention Hall.

It will be a grand and glorious feeling for all Americans who take pride in our system of free enterprise to witness the human element—the expert craftsmanship—which is emphasized in addition to commercial values at our now-famous Show.

Visitors will also get a big kick out of the music, the contests, the entertainment and U.S. armed forces' displays in addition to the gorgeous exhibits during the 8-day, action-packed, round-up of union-made-in-America merchandise and union services.

Let's prove to the world that they are tops!

For information about the great Show all America is talking about, write to: Matthew Woll, Director, Union Industries Show, American Federation of Labor Building, Washington 1, D. C.